

**SURVEY OF SNAKES FROM SHRIRAMPUR REGION, DISTRICT -AHMEDNAGAR,  
(M.S.) INDIA**

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**Abstract-**

Snakes are well adapted to their habitat's. Depending on their habitat they may be aquatic snakes, burrowing and arboreal snakes, Snakes found in different size, shape and colour due to their mode of life. Snakes occupy a wide range of habitats which includes fields, forests, wetland, ponds, lakes, streams, rocky hillsides, farmland, vacant plots and residential areas also. The Srirampur region is having a large number of snakes. A checklist of snakes is prepared on the basis of the information collected from the survey during August 2020 to April 2022. The captured snakes represent 12 types of species under 05 families. In these families 04 were venomous snakes, 08 non-venomous snakes. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the information, occurrence, abundance & species richness and further assist in the knowledge, awareness and conservation of snake fauna in this region. So, this study may play helpful role in conversation of the biodiversity.

**Keywords:** Snakes, Venomous, Monsoons, Terrestrial

**Introduction :**

It is postulated that there are about 3000 species of terrestrial snakes in the world and they are predominant in the warm climates and lush green regions of the tropics. About 278 species are found in India out of which 58 species are venomous. The body of snake is often modified to suit its ecological conditions. These are particularly noticed as fossorial, arboreal, aerial, aquatic & terrestrial forms. Many snakes have been spotted in and around their habitats during our visit / studies or during stress calls made by residents to snake charmers/ rescuers/NGO's etc. In Ahmednagar recently this region is rapidly undergoing industrialization, infrastructural development including townships etc. and as such these areas are prone to habitat loss due to which different types of snakes including venomous, semi-venomous, non-venomous are being noticed in the residential areas during monsoons and winter seasons Snakes are extremely well- adapted to their habitats namely aquatic, fossorial, arboreal and other terrestrial forms observed in this region. The variation of their sizes, shapes and colours are generally due to the adaptive radiation in mode of life. Snakes are intrinsically fascinating and form an important component of the biota. It is natural that their curious mode of propulsion, venom and constricting mechanism have made them important group of predators and the interactions maintains a natural balance in the forest and deserts, the plains and hills of India. Warehouses provided new opportunities for worms and insects, frogs, birds, rats, mice, etc. many of which. increased in the areas due to these habitat & safe houses and subsequently are an easy prey for snakes and also changes in their food supply apparently caused shifts in the kinds and density of snake. The snakes found in India show great biodiversity and their length varies from 6mm to 10 m while weight ranges between few grams to several kilograms. There are records in the Ayurveda which pertain to snake venom, particularly the cobra venom. Fifteen families are currently recognized, comprising 456 genera and over 2,900 terrestrial species The degree of species diversity varies from one ecosystem to the other. India is very rich country in terms of the flora and fauna present in the natural ecosystem. About 3500 species of snakes are recorded on earth inhabiting both land and sea of which about 375 are venomous. According to Raut et al 2019 about 278 species are found in India out of which 58 species are poisonous Raut et al 2014.

**Materials and Methods**

Well-trained snake-catchers/charmers or snake rescuers from different localities of Ahmednagar had captured the snakes that have been sighted during visits or randomly or on request of local people when snakes were observed in their houses or in and around their areas. After catching the snakes, their characteristics, predominant features were noted photographed and identified as per Sins. Subsequently the captured snakes were released in the forest area.

**Observation**

**Non-Venomous Snakes**

1. Worm Snake

Common Name- Worm snake

Scientific Name- *Typhlopsbraminus*

Family- Typhlopidae

**Distinctive Characters-** Snake is brown with a shining chocolate hue above, lighter below and the head tail region slightly whitish. It is found in rotting vegetation and is sometimes recovered from uncleaned bathrooms in rural homes. Superficially they look like earthworm; the tail is similar to the blunt head, but bears tiny spines. The eyes are barely visible dots and covered by scales

## **2. Beaked worm Snake**

Common Name- Beaked worm Snake

Scientific Name- *Rhinotypholusacutus*

Family- Typhlopidae

**Distinctive features-** Head same width as snout pointed with large, hooked beak like scale. Nostrils below the beak. Tiny scale covered eye visible as black dot. Glossy brown above distinctly paler below. Short tail ends in spine

## **3. Indian Rock Python**

Common Name- Indian Rock Python

Scientific Name- *Python morulus*

Family- *Python morulus*

**Distinctive character-** It is heavily bodied, smooth scaled snake with a lance shaped head and short tail. The bright, blotched pattern may be yellowish to dark brown. The underside is whitish

## **4. Sand Boa**

Common Name- Sand Boa

Scientific Name- *Python morulus*

Family- *Eryxconicus*

**Distinctive character** the overall colour of the common sand boa varies from yellowish white to dark brown with irregular blotches all over the body.

## **5. Common Trinket Snake**

Common Name- Common Trinket Snake

Scientific Name- *ElapheHelena*

Family- Colubridae

**Distinctive Character:** It is tan and chocolate brown with two prominent dark stripes on the later part of the body and light band light band and checks on the fore part

## **6. Indian Rat Snake**

Common Name- Indian Rat Snake

Scientific Name- *Ptyasmucosus*

Family- Colubridae

**Distinctive character:** Rat snake may be light yellow (on the plains) to jet black in the hills and many shades of green, olive or brown in between. The underside often has cross bars that are quite prominent.

## **7. Banded kukri Snake**

Common Name- Banded kukri Snake

Scientific Name *Oligodonarnensis*

Family- Colubridae

**Distinctive character-** Banded Kukris are reddish or greyish brown with 10-20 black or dark brown bands. The top of the head has a distinct chevron or arrow head design

## **8. Checkered Keelback**

Common Name- Checkered Keelback

Scientific Name *Xenochropis piscator*

Family- Colubridae

**Distinctive character-** Vary in colour from black with light markings to bright yellow colour with the characteristics black and white. Checkered pattern. The one or two black eye streaks are distinctive and head is obtusely pointed and distinct from neck. Underside is usually shiny and pure white

## **VENOMOUS(PISONOUS) SNAKES**

### **1. Spectacled Cobra**

Name- Spectacled Cobra

common name - *Najana*

Family- Elapidae

**Distinctive character-** It is smooth scaled snake with black eyes, wide neck and head and medium body. Colouring varies from black or brown to yellowish white. The underside is usually white or yellowish with a wide dark neck band. The famous hood marking of the classic design, shows a connected pair of rings.

## **2. Common Krait**

Name- Common Krait

common name -*Bungaruscaeruleus*

Family- Elapidae

**Distinctive character**-Common Kraits are smooth, glossy bluish-black snakes with rounded heads slightly distinct from the neck. There are normally about 40 thin white cross bands. The underside is white.

## **3. Russell's Viper**

Name-Russell's Viper

common name -*Daboia russelli*

Family- Elapidae

**Distinctive character**-Russell's viper are heavy, rough scaled snakes with vertical eye pupils and generally a very bright pattern. The body colour is usually brown or yellowish and the pattern is composed of dark round spots edged with white and black. The underside is white in the western, partly speckled in the southeastern and heavily speckled in the northeastern races.

## **4. Saw Scaled Viper**

Name-Saw Scaled Viper

common name -*Echis Carinatus*

Family- Viperidae

**Distinctive character** -Small brownish body of dry appearance. Mostly Found under rock and in dry areas produces sound like saw on disturbing by mutually rubbing scales on planks. Arrow shaped mark on the top of the head is also identification.

## **Result And Discussion**

Snakes are one of the most abundant reptiles, all are world expect action Newzeland & Ireland. They have most imp ecological role. It was observed that many studies were carried out on snake diversity in Maharashtra & nearby states. But this study was carried out to determine the snake diversity in this particular in Srirampur district Ahmednagar. During this study families out of 14 reported 4 venomous snakes & 10 non venomous snakes. Among four venomous snake two families were recorded. The most dominant family observed was elpidae that include spectacled cobra, common krait & Russell's viper while in non-venomous snake, their families were noted that included typhlopidae, Boidae, colubriidae. Domanan of snaks belonging to colultridae family was recorded. Examples of non-venomous snake belonging to colutridea family were Indian Rat snake, kukari, wolf snake & keelback water snake.

From literature survey are noted that most of the snake's species appears in public places residential area & or in farm fields apart from the forest area. Common reason for this was over exploitation of forest areas for the benefit of human mankind. This resulted in appearance of snakes most in residential area. Therefore, most of the snake species are killed with only tear. Regardless of the vulnerable or endangered status due to unawareness of about the usefulness in the ecosystem & its conservation status, most of the snakes have been killed without knowing the poison & non-poisonous type of snakes. Only few of them who were aware about the importance of conservation or protection of snakes tried to inform snake friends to rescue the snake & save it by realising it forests areas. During this study are observed maximum snakes' trite cases of Indian cobra from residential area & form field while Russel viper saw scaled viper cues sighted rarely but are observed most during their active periods in the months of October to June. Most snake species were reported mostly during monsoon season due to abundance of food in the season. There were report of 100 cases in a month with maximum snake Indian cobra, Common krait, Russels viper, common trinket snakes, kukri, under found to refers night time for fading & so the cases of snake bite encountered during night time. While Indian rat snake, keelback.... etc. were spotted during day time.

The present study is a preliminary survey to analyse the diversity of snake's species occurring in various area to determine their including abundance to provide awareness regarding conservation of snakes in this session. further aslo will continue to monitor this diversity & its number to maintain & enhance the snake diversity in this area by take special awareness programs in various places.

## **Conclusion**

Form this study all concluded that a total of 12 species of snake where recorded that includes 08 species of non-venomous snake of 04 species of snake venomous snake Dominant of colubridae of non-venomous and dominance of Elapidae family of venomous snake was recorded During collected Most species of snake were reported an area and form field we observed in case in the rate of snake killing Due to lack of knowledge fear of bite and muscular behaving of people. therefore, spreading awareness regarding conservation status and identification of poisonous and non-poisonous snake it of almost important. thus, the diversity of snake, it's increased or decreased rate of abundance. it very essential to protect the population of snake

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### **Non-Venomous Snakes:**



1. *Typhlopsbraminus*  
3. *Python morulus*



2. *Rhinotypholusacutus*  
4. *Python morulus*



5. *ElapheHelena*



6. *Ptyasmucosus*



7. *Oligodonarnensis*



8. *Xenochropis piscator*



**Venomous Snakes:**



1. *Najanaja*



2. *Bungaruscaeruleus*



3. *Daboia russelli*



4. *Echis Carinatus*